

Atty. Docket No. JP9-1999-0804US1
(590.017)

REMARKS

It should be noted the fact that February 29, 2004, fell on a Sunday endures this paper is timely filed as of Monday, March 1, 2004.

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1 - 16 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 7, 12, 14, and 16 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims.

Claims 7 and 11 have been objected to on formal grounds. These claims have been amended to correct obvious typographical errors and it is respectfully suggested the objections have been obviated. No change in the scope of the claims has been made by these amendments.

All claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. in view of Schabes et al. Claims 12-13 and 15 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. in view of Lakritz. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. The Action takes the position that Williamowski et al. "discloses generation of queries including search terms and expression in users' native language from which the users search or retrieve to get the search results in other languages from a plurality of

Atty. Docket No. JP9-1999-0804US1
(590.017)

particular search engines and an automatic translation system.” (Page 4).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully requested.

As discussed in the previous Amendment, Williamowski et al. as best understood appears to be directed to cross-lingual information retrieval wherein the user specifies a number of items, one of which is the language into which a query is translated. (Col. 5, lines 37-40) Another item which the user may specify is whether “to guess the language of the results”. (Col. 5, lines 47-49) The query is then subsequently presented to a search engine. The only search engine identified in Williamowski et al. is Alta Vista. (Col. 3, lines 56-59) Thus, it appears as if the translated query is presented to a search engine without regard to the dedicated language of the search engine, in contrast with the present invention.

As best understood, Schabes et al. appears to be directed to a spelling and grammar checking system which may be used in conjunction with World Wide Web search engines. (Col. 1, lines 17-25) While a number of different search engines are identified (Col. 7, lines 48-51), they are recited as exemplars of items that may be accessed by Internet Access program (Web Browser) 42 in Fig. 2. It should be noted that all of the identified search engines are English language search engines based in the United States. Thus, it again appears as if the query is presented to a search engine without regard to the dedicated language of the search engine, in contrast with the present invention.

Atty. Docket No. JP9-1999-0804US1
(590.017)

As best understood, Lakritz appears to be directed to allowing a user to build, operate and maintain a multilingual Web site easily and efficiently. (Col. 3, lines 31-33). As described, Visitor module 202 automatically determines the language and country of a Web site visitor and directs Web server 203 to deliver the appropriate localized content contained in one or more country/language databases and/or file-based content in a file system 204 to the visitor's browser 201. (Col. 3, lines 62-67) As such, Lakritz is not concerned with search engines but with static web sites. Lakritz does not appear to translate a query to match the dedicate language of the web site, but appears to attempt to change the dedicated language of the web site to match the language of the query, e.g., the web site has multiple dedicated languages. In contrast with the present invention, such an approach does not appear to be viable when dealing with dynamic web sites such as search engines.

Williamowski et al. does not provide a teaching or suggestion of the instantly claimed invention. The combination of Williamowski et al., Schabes et al., and/or Lakritz also fails to teach or suggest the instantly claimed invention. As clearly defined by the claims, the instantly claimed invention requires specifically "translating said query words of native language into query words of dedicated language of said selected search engine." (Claim 1) Similar language appears in the other independent claims. Purposely translating the query into the (dedicated) language of a particular search engine is not provided by Williamowski et al. or any of the other applied references.

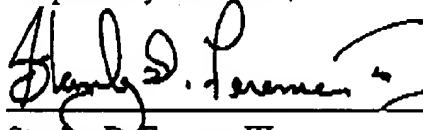
Moreover, following the teachings of the Williamowski et al. patent would not result in the instantly claimed invention. As previously discussed, in Williamowski et al.

Atty. Docket No. JP9-1999-0804US1
(590.017)

the user may select the language of the query but there is no teaching the user has any knowledge of what particular search engine will be used in searching the query. Thus, following the teachings of Williamowski et al. would not result in the claimed invention where the query is translated into the dedicated language of the search engine to be used. Williamowski et al. simply does not teach or disclose these limitations, either alone or in combination with the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-16 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. In the unlikely event the Office does not agree the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request an interview with the Examiner prior to the next Office Action in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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